1856

Family Muroenesocidae

Body greatly elongated, eel like, anteriorly partly cylindrical. Tail long, compressed. Jaws not excessively elongated though conspicuous and conic. Vomer well armed with teeth. Tongue largely adnate. Hind nostril not labial. Gill openings rather wide, narrowly separated below. Branchiostegal membrane connects opposite sides below. Body scaleless. Lateral line present. End of tail surrounded by caudal fin. Pectoral well developed. Vent in front half of body.

1857

Plain colored eels, some of large size, living in rather deep water and resembling the congers. Found in all tropical and subtropical seas.

Analysis of genera

a.' Teeth in jaws in several series, one series enlarged and compressed, long canines in front; vomer with series of teeth, median very large canines; tail longer than rest of body.

Muraenesox.

a.² Teeth in jaws triserial, median series long wide set canines; vomer with very small teeth; tail shorter than rest of body.

Oxyconger.

a.³ Teeth all conic, slender, pointed, in wide bands in jaws, deep edentulous groove on maxillary divides 2 parallel bands; vomer with median series of conic teeth; tail longer than rest of body.

Xenomystax.

Genus Muroenesox Mc Clelland

Muroenesox Mc Clelland, Calcutta Journ. Nat. Hist., vol. 4, 1844, p. 408.

Type Muroenesox tricuspidata

Mc Clelland = Muraena arabica Schneider; virtually designated by Bleeker, Atlas Ichth. Ind. Néerl., vol. 4, 1864, p. 19.

Muraenesox Mc Clelland, Calcutta Journ. Nat. Hist., vol. 5, 1845, pp. 172, 180, 210.

Type Muroenesox tricuspidata Mc Clelland.

Cynoponticus Costa, Fauna Napoli, Pesc., 1846, fasc. 52-53, p. 1. Atypie.

Type Cynoponticus ferox Costa, in index p. 6, monotypie.

Brachyconger Bleeker, Nederl. Tijds. Dierk., vol. 2, 1865, p. 116. Type Conger savanna Cuvier, monotypic.

Congresox Gill, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 13, 1890, p. 234. Type Conger talabon Cuvier, orthotypic.

Rhechias Jordan, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 59, 1921, p. 644. Type Rhechias armiger Jordan, orthotypic.

1860

Snout moderately produced. Eye large, oval, without free lids. Upper jaw rounded at end, little expanded and somewhat separated by subterminal notch from rest of snout. Mouth wide, cleft extends well back behind eye. Teeth in jaws in several series, of first series enlarged and depressed, forming long canines in front. Vomers with several long series of teeth, median row of strong canines. Front nostril with short tube and behind notch of upper jaw. Hind nostril opposite middle in depth of eye and about

1861

eye diameter before it. Gill opening wide. dorsal and anal well developed; former begins little before or above gill opening.

Large conger like eels, found in most warm seas. Remarkable for the strong armature of teeth on the vomer. Species few.

1862

Larval form.

Leptocephalus schmidti Weber.

Leptocephalus schmidti Weber,

Siboga Exped., vol. 57, Fische, 1913,

p. 74, figs. 23-24. Bay of Bima. —

Weber and Beaufort, Fishes Indo

Austral. Archipelago, vol. 3, 1916, p. 401,

figs. 200 (head) 201 (type).

1863

Analysis of species

a'. Outer mandibular teeth not directed outwards; median canines of vomer with distinct anterior and posterior basal lobes. arabicus.

a². Outer row of mandibular teeth directed or flaring outward; median canines of vomer at most with indication only of basal lobes.

b'. Pectoral 3 in head. talabon.

b². Pectoral 4 or more in head. talabonoides.

1864

Muroenesox arabicus (Schneider

Muraena arabicus Schneider, Syst.

Ichth. Bloch, 1801, p. 488. Red Sea.

(On Muraena cinerea Forskål.)

Muroenesox arabicus Fowler, Proc.

Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 1929,

p. 592 (Shanghai), p. 601 (Hong

Kong); Hong Kong Naturalist, vol. 2,

no. 4, Nov. 1931, p. 290 (Hong Kong);

vol. 3, no. 1, March 1932, p. 53

(Hong Kong, Shanghai, Natal, India).

Muroenesox arabecicus Fowler, Hong Kong

Naturalist, vol. 3, no. 1, March 1932 (p.

5-3), fig. 3.

1865

Muraena cinerea Forskål, descript. Animal., 1775, p. 10. Arabia (nomen nudum; not Bonnaterre 1788).

Muraena tota cinerea Forskål, descript. Animal., 1775, p. 22. Djedda, Red Sea (nobinomial).

Muraena myrus var. tota cinerea Gmelin, Syst. Nat. Linn., ed. 13, pt. 1, 1789, p. 1134. Red Sea (on Forskål).

Conger cinereus Rüppell, Atlas Reise nordl. Afrika, Fische, 1828, p. 115 (part; not description or figure).

Muraenesox cinereus Günther, Cat. Fishes Brit. Mus., vol. 8, 1870, p. 46 (India, Vizagapatam, Calcutta, Malay Peninsula,

Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia,
1927, p. 259 (Orani, Orion and
Philippines);

1866

Philippines, Formosa, Amoy, Japan, Australia, types of Congrus brevicuspis, Congrus angustidens, Congrus protverus).

— Klunzinger, Verh. zool. bot. Gesell. Wien, vol. 21, 1871, p. 608 (Red Sea). —

† — Martens, Preuss. Expedt. Ost-Asien, vol. 1, 1876, p. 405 (Bangkok, Singapore, Manila).

Handl., Stockholm, 1877, p. 46 (Nagasaki).

— Day, Fishes of India, pt. 4, 1878, p. 602, pl. 168, fig. 4. — Peters, Monatsber. Akad. Wiss. Berlin, 1880, p. 926 (Ningpo).

— Günther, Rep. Voy. Challenger, vol. 1, pt. 6, 1880, p. 73 (Kobe). — Károli, Termesz. Füzetek, Budapest, vol. 5,

Philippines, Formosa, Amoy, Japan, Australia, types of Congrus brevicuspis, Congrus angustidens, Congrus protoverus).
— Klunzinger, Verh. zool. bot. Ges. Wien, vol. 21, 1871, p. 608 (Red Sea).—
→ Castelnau, Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales, vol. 2, 1877, p. 244 (Brisbane River).
— Nystrom, Kon. Svenske. Vet. Akad. Handl., Stockholm, 1877, p. 46 (Nagasaki).
— Day, Fishes of India, pt. 4, 1878, p. 602, pl. 168, fig. 4. — Peters, Monatsber. Akad. Wiss. Berlin, 1880, p. 926 (Ningpo).
— Günther, Rep. Voy. Challenger, vol. 1, pt. 6, 1880, p. 73 (Kobe). — Károli, Termesz. Füzetek, Budapest, vol. 5,

1881, p. 185 (Karangoon). — Sauvage, Bull. Soc. Philom., Paris, ser. 7, vol. 5, 1881, p. 107 (Kwatow). — Macleay, Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales, vol. 8, 1883, p. 278 (Hood Bay, New Guinea). — Day, Fauna British India, vol. 1, 1889, p. 91. — Elera, Cat. Fauna Filipina, vol. 1, 1895, p. 587 (Mindoro, Luzon, Manila Bay, Manang River). — Rutter, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 1897, p. 61 (Kwatow). — Ishikawa and Matsmura, Prelim. Cat. Fishes Mus. Tokyo, 1897, p. 6. — Ogilby, Handbook of Sydney, 1898, p. 119. — Jordan and Snyder, Proc. U. S. Nat.

1868

Mus., vol. 23, 1901, p. 857 (Tokyo, Misaki, Tsuruga, Wakanoura, Onomichi, Hiroshima, Nagasaki). — Pfeffer, Ost Afrika Fische, 1903, p. 41. — Stead, Fishes of Australia, 1906, p. 44. — Jordan and Seale, Bull. Bur. Fisher., vol. 26, 1906 (1907), p. 6 (Manila). — Jordan and Richardson, Bull. Bur. Fisher., vol. 27, 1907 (1908), p. 237 (Manila). — Regan, Ann. Natal Gov. Mus., 1908, p. 243 (Durban Bay). — Jordan and Dickerson, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 34, 1908, p. 604 (Suva). — Seale, Philippine Journ. Sci., vol. 5, no. 4, 1910, p. 265 (Hong Kong). —

Franz, Abh~~andl~~. ~~Kais~~. Bayer. Akad. Wiss., vol. 4, Suppl. Band 1, 1910, p. 12 (Yokohama). — Gilchrist and Thompson, Ann. South African Mus., vol. 11, no. 2, 1911, pt. 2, p. 52 (Natal). — Snyder, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 42, 1912, p. 406 (Kagoshima). — Zugmayer, Abh~~andl~~. Kön. Bayer. Akad. Wiss., Math.-phys~~ik~~. Klasse, vol. 26, band 6, 1913, p. 9 (Mekran; Oman). — Weber and Beaufort, Fishes Indo Austral. Archipelago, vol.

Flores; Aru). — Gilchrist and Thompson, Ann. Durban Mus., vol. 1, pt. 4, May 21, 1917, p. 302 (compiled). — Fowler, Copeia, no. 58,

1969

Franz, Abhandl. Kais. Bayer. Akad. Wiss., vol. 4, Suppl. Band 1, 1910, p. 12 (Yokohama). — Gilchrist and Thompson, Ann. South African Mus., vol. 11, no. 2, 1911, pt. 2, p. 52 (Natal). — Snyder, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 42, 1912, p. 406 (Kagoshima). — Zugmayer, Abhandl. Kön. Bayer. Akad. Wiss., Math.-phys. Klasse, vol. 26, band 6, 1913, p. 9 (Mekran; Oman). — Weber and Beaufort, Fishes Indo Austral. Archipelago, vol. 3, 1916, p. 253, fig. 104 (head) (Api Api, Sumatra; Kota Baru and Balik Papan, Borneo; Makassar, Celebes; Flores; Aru). — Fowler, Copeia, no. 58,

1870

June 18, 1918, p. 62 (Philippines).

— Herre, Philippine Journ. Sci., vol. 23, no. 2, Aug. 1923, p. 148, pl. 10, fig. 1 (Manila, Alaminos, Agno River, Bancal River, Calabang, Tacloban, Cavite; Hong Kong; Vandaksan). — Fowler, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 1925, p. 196 (Tugela River mouth, Natal, 60 fathoms). — Deraniyagala, Ceylon Administrat. Rep., 1925, p. F15. — Barnard, Ann. South African Mus., vol. 21, pt. 1, June 1925, p. 197, pl. 9, fig. 2 (Natal); pt. 2, Oct. 1927, p. 1018 (Delagoa Bay). — Evermann and Shaw, Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., ser. 4, vol. 16,

No. 4, Jan. 31, 1927, p. 102 (Chefoo). — McCulloch, Fishes New South Wales, ed. 2, 1927, p. 23, pl. 8, fig. 78a. — Fowler, Mem. Bishop Mus., vol. 10, 1928, p. 37 (compiled); Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., vol. 32, No. 2, 1928, p. 255 (off Bombay); vol. 33, No. 1, Sep. 30, 1928, p. 104 (Bombay Bay). — Ww, Contrib. Biol. Lab. Sci. Soc. China, vol. 5, No. 4, 1929, p. 32, fig. 26 (head) (Amoy). — Chen, Bull. Biol. Dep. Sun Yatsen Univ., vol. 1, No. 1, 1929, p. 7, fig. 2 (dentition) (Macao, Foochow, Diapo, Hoihow, Ningpo, Yungkhoa, Hama, Limkoa, Pakhoi).

— Tirant, Service Océanogr. Pêches Indo Chine, 6e note, 1929, p. 174 (Hué). 1872

Muraenesox cinereus Vanvage, Bull. Soc. Philom., Paris, ser. 7, vol. 5, 1881, p. 107 (Kwatow).

Muraenesox cinereus Gorgoza, An. Soc. Espan. Hist. Nat. Madrid, vol. 14, 1885, p. 74 (Manila).

Muraenesox cinerea Bartlett, Sarawak Gazette, vol. 26, No. 368, 1896, p. 180 (Buntal and Moratabas).

Muraena bagio Buchanan-Hamilton, Fishes of Ganges, 1822, pp. 24, 364. (Ganges estuaries).

1873

Conger bagio Cantor, Journ. Asiatic Soc. Bengal, vol. 18, pt. 2, 1849, p. 1298 (Malay Peninsula and Islands). — Bleeker, Verhand. Batavia. Genootsch. (Nal. Ichth. Japan), vol. 25, 1853, p. 19; (Nal. Ichth. Bengal), vol. 25, 1853, p. 78; (Nal. Ichth. Japan), vol. 26, 1857, p. 6 (Nagasaki); Act. Soc. Ind. Néerl., Ind. Vei. 3, vol. 3, 1857-58, p. 6 (Japan). — Mason, Burmah Nat. Resources, 1860, p. 703 (reference). — Bleeker, Atlas Ichth. Ind. Néerland., vol. 4, 1864, p. 24, pl. (26) 170, fig. 2 (Java, Pinang, Singapore, Bintang, Sumatra, Borneo, Celebes, Philippines).

1874

Muraenophis bagi Cantor, Journ. Asiatic Soc. Bengal, vol. 18, pt. 1, 1849, p. 1301.

Muraenesox bagio Kaup, Archiv Naturg., 1856, p. 70 (compiled); Cat. Apodal Fish Brit. Mus., 1856, 116 (no localities). — Bleeker, Nederl. Tijdsch. Dierk., vol. 2, 1865, p. 57 (Amoy). — Kner, Reise Novara, Fische, 1865, p. 373 (Java). — Castelnau, Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales, vol. 3, 1878, p. (355) 395 (Port Jackson).

Ophisurus rostratus Quoy and Gaimard, Voy. Uranie, Zool., 1824, p. 242, pl. 51, fig. 1. Ile Rawak.

1875

Conger longirostris Bennett, Life of Raffles, 1830, p. 692. Sumatra.

Conger oxyrhynchus Eydoux and Souleyet, Voy. Bonite, Zool., vol. 1, 1841, p. 203, pl. 9, fig. 2. Macao, China.

Muroenesox tricuspidata Mc Clelland, Calcutta Journ. Nat. Hist, vol. 4, 1844, p. 409, pl. 24, fig. 1. Chusan and Ningpo; near Calcutta, India.

Muraenesox tricuspidata Mc Clelland, Calcutta Journ. Nat. Hist., vol. 5, 1845, p. 210 (Bengal and China).

Congrus tricuspidatus Richardson, Voy. Sulphur, Fishes, 1844, p. 105, pl. 51, fig. 2 (Chusan, Ningpo, Canton); Ichth.

1876

Voy. Erebus and Terror, 1844-48, p. 118 (China and India); Schth. China and Japan, 1846, p. 312 (Chusan, Ningpo, Canton).

Muraenesox hamiltoniae Mc Clelland, Calcutta Journ. Nat. Hist., vol. 5, 1845, p. 182, pl. 8, fig. 3 (on Muraena bagio Buchanan-Hamilton).

Muraenesox hamiltonii Mc Clelland, Calcutta Journ. Nat. Hist., vol. 5, 1845, p. 210, pl. 8, fig. 3.

Muraenesox bengalensis Mc Clelland, Calcutta Journ. Nat. Hist., vol. 5, 1845, p. 182. Bengal.

1877

Muraenesox aurea Mc Clelland, Calcutta Journ. Nat. Hist., vol. 5, 1845, p. 183 (on Taloo paum Russell, Fishes of Coromandel, vol. 1, 1803, p. 23, Vizagapatam).

Muraenophis bagi Mc Clelland, Calcutta Journ. Nat. Hist., vol. 5, 1845, p. 203. (on Muraenesox hamiltoniae Mc Clelland).

Conger hamo Schlegel, Fauna Japonica, Poiss., pts. 10-14, 1846, p. 262, pl. 114, fig. 2. All bays in south west of Japan; Osaka. — Brevoort, Narr. Exped. China Jap. Perry, vol. 2, 1856, p. 282 (Simoda).

Congrus hamo Richardson, Ichth. Voy. Erebus and Terror, 1844-48, p. 111

(Philippines).

Congrus protverus Richardson, Ichth. Voy. Erebus and Terror, 1844-48, p. 110. Unknown locality.

Congrus angustidens Richardson, Ichth. Voy. Erebus and Terror, 1844-48, p. 110. China.

Congrus brevicuspis Richardson, Ichth. Voy. Erebus and Terror, 1844-48, p. 111. Habitat unknown. — Kaup, Cat. Apodal Fish Brit. Mus., 1856, p. 118 (copied).

Conger singaporensis Bleeker, Verhand. Batavia. Genootsch. (Muraen.), vol. 25, 1855, p. 21. Batavia; Singapore.

1479

Muraenesox singaporensis Bleeker, Atlas Ichth. Ind. Néerl., vol. 4, 1864, p. 25, pl. (7) 151, fig. 2 (Java, Singapore, Celebes). — Kner, Reise Novara, Fische, 1865, p. 371 (Madras, Java, Hong Kong).

Conger moniliger Bleeker, Atlas Ichth. Ind. Néerl., vol. 4, 1864, p. 24 (name in synonymy).

Depth 2 7/8 to 3 1/2 in head, 14 3/5 to 20 to caudal base; head 2 1/4 to 2 1/2 to vent, 5 1/3 to 6 to caudal base, width 4 2/3 to 5 in head length; combined head and trunk 1 1/4 to 1 2/3 in rest of length. Snout 3 1/2 to 4 in head; eye 8 to 9, 2 to 2 4/5 in snout, slightly greater to subequal with interorbital; mouth cleft 2 to 2 1/3 in head; upper teeth in 2 series, inner series posteriorly curved inward and forms broad band of 3 or 4 rows, with

age third or very low outer series may form; lower teeth triserial, median row greatly larger, and form 2 or 3 large canines at front of jaws; 8 to 10 canines on premaxillary; vomer with median row of 5 to 8 large compressed tricuspid teeth; interorbital 10 to 12 in head, convex. Gill opening 6 2/5 to 8.

Dorsal begins little before gill openings, sometimes advanced nearly to last sixth of head, fin height 5 to 6 4/5 in head; caudal 3 to

1882

3 1/4; pectoral 2 2/5 to 3.

Gray to gray brown on back, paler or gray white to white below. Iris whitish or yellowish white. Vertical fins brown, with broad dark margins, neutral black on anal. Pectoral brownish, darker terminally.

1883

6205. Batangas. June 7, 1908. Length 378 mm.

6708. Cavite market. December 1, 1908. Length 395 mm.

13000. Iloilo market. March 28, 1908. Length 458 mm.

4653. Manila market. January 13, 1908. Length 467 mm.

A436. Manila market. March 13, 1908. Length 377 mm.

5696. Manila market. April 27, 1908. Length 493 mm.

18438. Manila market. May 4, 1908. Length 470 mm.

6261. Manila market. June 12, 1908. Length 274 mm.

8300. Sorsogon market. March 12, 1909. Length 548 mm.

1884

6815. Kowloon market. September 19, 1908. Length 583 mm.

5108. Sandakan Bay, Borneo. March 3, 1908. Length 490 mm.

1885

Muroenesox talabon (Cuvier)
Conger talabon Cuvier, Règne Animal,
ed. 2, vol. 2, 1829, p. 350 (on Tala
bon) Russell, Fishes of Coromandel,
vol. 1, 1803, p. 27, pl. 38, Vizagapatam).
— Cantor, Journ. Asiatic Soc. Bengal,
vol. 18, pt. 2, 1849, p. 1294 (Pinang;
Malay Peninsula). — Bleeker, Verh.
Batav. Genootsch. (Nat. Schtth.
Bengal), vol. 25, 1853, p. 78 (reference).
— Mason, Burmah Nat. Resources,
1860, p. 703 (reference).
Muraenesox talabon Bleeker, Atlas
Ichth. Ind. Néerland, vol. 4, 1864, p.
22, pl. (8) 152, fig. 2 (Java, Madura,

1886

Sumatra, Nias, Singapore, Borneo, Celebes). — ~~Day, Fishes of Malabar, 1865, p. 246.~~ — Kner, Reise Novara, Fische, 1865, p. 372 (locality ?). — Schmeltz, Cat. Mus. Godeffroy, No. 4, 1869, p. 26 (Singapore). — Day, Fauna British India, vol. 1, 1889, p. 90, fig. 38. — Elera, Cat. Fauna Filipinas, vol. 1, 1895, p. 587 (Luzon, Cavite, Santa Cruz). — Duncker, Mitteil. Nat. Mus. Hamburg, vol. 21, 1903 (1904), p. 187 (Pinang, Singapore, Bandar Maharani). — Jordan and Seale, Proc. Davenport Acad. Sci., vol. 10, 1907, p. 4 (Hong Kong). — Weber and Beaufort,

1887

Fishes Indo Austral. Archipelago, vol. 3, 1916, p. 255, fig. 103, text fig. 105 (dentition) (Bagan Api Api, Sumatra; Balik Papan, Borneo). — Vinciguerra, Ann. Mus. Civic Stor. Nat. Genova, ser. 3, vol. 10, 1921-26, p. 605 (Sarawak). — Herre, Philippine Journ. Sci., vol. 23, No. 2, Aug. 1923, p. 149 (Manila).

Muraenesox talabon Day, Fishes of Malabar, 1865, p. 246; Fishes of India, pt. 4, 1878, p. 661, pl. 168, fig. 5 (error).

Muraenesox talabon Chen, Bull. Biol. Dep. Sun Yatsen Univ., vol. 1, No. 1, 1929,

p. 9 (reference; error).

Muroenesox exodon Mc Clelland, Calcutta Journ. Nat. Hist., vol. 4, 1844, p. 409. Bay of Bengal.

Muraenesox exodentata Mc Clelland, Calcutta Journ. Nat. Hist., vol. 5, 1845, p. 180, pl. 8, fig. 4 (type).

Muroenesox lanceolata Mc Clelland, Calcutta Journ. Nat. Hist., vol. 4, 1844, p. 409. Bengal.

Muraenesox lanceolata Mc Clelland, Calcutta Journ. Nat. Hist., vol. 5, 1845, pp. 181, 210 (compiled).

Muroenesox serradentata Mc Clelland, Calcutta Journ. Nat. Hist., vol. 4, 1844,

1889

p. 409.

Muraenesox serradentata Inc Clelland, Calcutta Journ. Nat. Hist., vol. 5, 1845, p. 710 (compiled).

Muraenesox pristis Kaup, Archiv Naturg., 1856, p. 74. Asia; Cat. Apodal Fish Brit. Mus., 1856, p. 116 (Indian Ocean).

1890

Muroenesox talabonoides (Bleeker)

Conger talabonoides Bleeker, Verh. Batavia. Genootsch. (Muraen.), vol. 25, 1853, p. 20. Batavia, Java.

Muraenesox talabonoides Bleeker, Atlas Ichth. Ind. Heerl., vol. 4, 1864, p. 23, pl. (10) 154, fig. 2 (Java). — Günther, Cat. Fishes Brit. Mus., vol. 8, 1870, p. 46 (Java). — Day, Fauna British India, vol. 1, 1889, p. 91. — Weber and Beaufort, Fishes Indo Austral. Archipelago, vol. 3, 1916, p. 256, fig. 106 (head) (Balik Papan, Borneo). — Fowler, Mem. Bishop Mus., vol. 10, 1928, p. 37 (type of

Rhechias armiger). — Chen, Bull. Biol. dep. Sun Yatsen Univ., vol. 1, no. 1, 1929, p. 8, fig. 3 (dentition) (Hoihow).

Muraenesox talabonoides Day, Fishes of India, pt. 4, 1874, p. 662, pl. 168, fig. 3 (Hooghly at Calcutta).

Muraena myrus (not Linnaeus) Gray, Cat. Fish Gronow, 1854, p. 20 (part), Rhechias armiger Jordan, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 59, 1921, p. 644, fig. 1. Hawaii. (Young dried example.)

Muroenesox talabonoides Fowler, Hong Kong Naturalist, vol. 3, no. 1, March 1934, p. 55 (compiled).

1892

Genus Oxyconger Bleeker

Oxyconger Bleeker, Atlas Ichth. Ind. Néerl., vol. 4, 1864, p. 19. Type Conger leptognathus Bleeker, orthotypic.

Body compressed, longer than tail. Head moderate. Snout long, slender, pointed. Eye small, slightly advanced. Mouth cleft extends little beyond eye. Teeth triserial in jaws, median as long slender canines, wide set, some straight, some curved. Vomer with series of very small teeth. Gill opening small. Nostrils without tubes, posterior little before eye. Dorsal inserted over gill opening. Pectoral slender, short.

1893

Oxyconger leptognathus (Bleeker)

Conger leptognathus Bleeker, Act. Soc. Sci. Ind. Néerl., no. 3, vol. 3, 1857-58, p. 27, pl. 2, fig. 2. Japan.

Oxyconger leptognathus Günther, Cat. Fishes Brit. Mus., vol. 8, 1870, p. 49 (type). —Jordan and Snyder, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 23, 1901, p. 858, fig. 9 (head) (Tokyo market).

1894

Genus Xenomystax Gilbert

Xenomystax Gilbert, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 14, 1891, p. 348. Type Xenomystax atrarius Gilbert.

Body long, shorter than long tapering tail. Head rather large. Snout long slender. Eye rather large, little advanced. Mouth cleft long, reaches beyond eye midway in head. Teeth conic, slender, sharp, mostly depressible, in broad bands in jaws, upper with edentulous groove on maxillary separating 2 parallel lengthwise bands. Vomer with teeth. Tongue small, adherent. ~~Gill opening large.~~

1895

Front nostril large, subtubular slit near snout tip; hind one slit on side of snout nearly medial. Gill opening large, interspace narrow. Branchial openings into pharynx wide slits. No scales. Vertical fins well developed, confluent dorsal beginning little before gill opening. Pectoral less than snout.

Analysis of species

a.' Pectoral 2 in snout; head longer than trunk. atrarius.

a.² Pectoral 1 3/3 in snout; head equals trunk. trucidans.

1896

Xenomystax atrarius Gilbert

Xenomystax atrarius Gilbert, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 14, 1891, p. 348.

Albatross Station 2792, 401 fathoms, off Ecuador.

—Jordan and Davis, Rep. U. S. Fish Comm., pt. 16, 1889 (1892), p. 649 (reference).—

Jordan and Evermann, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 47, pt. 1, 1896, p. 361 (compiled).

1897

Xenomystax trucidans Alcock

Xenomystax trucidans Alcock, Journ. Asiatic Soc. Bengal, vol. 63, pt. 2, 1894, p. 134. Laccadive Sea, 719 fathoms; Illustrat. Zool. Investigator, pt. 3, 1895, pl. 16, fig. 5; Journ. Asiatic Soc. Bengal, vol. 65, pt. 2, 1896, p. 338 (reference); Cat. Deep Sea Fishes Indian Mus., 1899, p. 205 (Arabian Sea between Laccadives and Malabar Coast, 360 to 719 fathoms).

1698

"Family Neenchelidae

Body elongate, anteriorly partly cylindrical, tail somewhat compressed. Head tapering. Snout conic, somewhat prominent by prominence of ethmoid together with premaxillary plate beyond articulation with maxillaries. Eye small. Mouth cleft small. "Teeth acute, few, spaced, uniserial in jaws and on vomer. "Tongue not free. "Front nostrils in short tube near snout tip. Hind nostrils long narrow slit before eye. Gill openings small or medium,

1899

lateral, separated by wide interspace. Branchial openings in pharynx narrow slits. Lateral line present. Dorsal origin well behind gill openings. Dorsal, anal and caudal confluent. Pectorals present. Vent far behind gill openings, premedian.

Small eels of the Indo Pacific.

1900

Genus Neenchelys Bamber

Neenchelys Bamber, Journ. Linn. Soc. London, Zool., vol. 31, 1915, p. 479.

Body moderately deep. Snout small. Eye far advanced. Mouth cleft reaches beyond eye. Teeth rather long. Branchiostegals 25, shining through skin of pharynx. Vertical fins low. Color uniform.

1901

Heenchelys buitendijki Weber and Beaufort

Heenchelys buitendijki Weber and Beaufort, Fishes Indo Austral. Archipelago, vol. 3, 1916, fig. p. 268, fig. 116, fig. 117 (head). Batavia Bay, Java.

1902

Family Sauromuraenesocidae

Body deepest premedially, compressed, with high arched back, tail low even at junction with trunk and tapering. Head large. Snout long, attenuate. Eye rather large. Mouth cleft wide. Teeth sharp, uniserial in jaws, some enlarged. Gill openings separate. No scales, lateral line axial. Vertical fins low or little developed, confluent. Pectoral long.

One genus.

— Günther, Cruise of Curaçoa, Brenchley, 1873, p. 409 (Solomon Islands); journ. Mus. Godeffroy, vols. 2–3, pts. 5–6, 1874, p. 28, pl. 23 (Samoa). — Schmeltz, Cat. Mus. Godeffroy, No. 5, 1874, p. 23 (Samoa); No. 7, 1879, p. 3 (Samoa). — Macleay, Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales, vol. 8, 1883, p. 260 (Hood Bay, New Guinea). — Schmeltz, Cat. Mus. Godeffroy, No. 9, 1884, p. 27 (Samoa); — Jatrow and Lenz, Abhandl. Senckenberg. Gesell., vol. 21, 1899, p. 501 (Zanzibar).

Diagramma lessoni Quartens, Peters. Exped. Ost Asien, 1876, p. 387 (Amboina).

Meyer, Anales Soc. Espan. Hist. Nat. Madrid, vol. 14, 1885, p. 14 (Macassar; Kordo, Mysore).

Plectorhynchus lessoni Bleeker, Atlas Ichth. Ind. Néerl., vol. 7, 1873–76, pl. (39) 317, fig. 3; vol. 8, 1876–77, p. 19 (Java, Ternate, Amboina, Waigiu).

1903

Genus Lauromuraenesox Alcock

Lauromuraenesox Alcock, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 6, vol. 4, 1889, p. 457. Type Lauromuraenesox vorax Alcock, monotypic.

Tail nearly long as combined head and trunk, much lower than rest of body. Snout pointed, overhangs and lower jaw. mouth, Eye nearly at first fourth in head. Mouth cleft extends beyond eye, with slight notch in profile of upper jaw near tip. Some enlarged teeth on premaxillary and front end of mandible. Row of fangs on vomer. Tongue free. Nostrils

1907

lateral. Gill opening large.

Lateral line distinct, not conspicuous,
each pore at end of small branch.
Gill openings into pharynx wide
slits. Heart placed between gills.

Vertical fins feeble. Pectoral
placed about midway in body depth.

1905

Lauromuraenesox vorax Alcock

Lauromuraenesox vorax Alcock,
Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 6, vol. 4,
1889, p. 458. N. 20°17'30" E. 88°51',
Bay of Bengal, 193 fathoms;
Illustrat. Zool. Investigator, pt. 1,
1892, pl. 6, fig. 3; Journ. Asiatic
Soc. Bengal, vol. 65, pt. 2, 1896, p.
338 (reference); Cat. Deep Sea Fishes
Indian Mus., 1899, p. 203 (Bay of
Bengal, 193 to 250 fathoms).

Depth 9 1/3; 5 1/5 to vent; head
2 1/3, 4 1/2 in total; snout 5 1/4 in
head; eye 10, 2 in snout; mouth
cleft 2 3/4 in head, extends eye

1906

diameter beyond eye; single row of close set, equal, acute, moderate teeth in each jaw, on maxillary very incomplete inner series of similar teeth; 3 pairs of lower front canines, median very large and fit into notch above between premaxillaries and maxillaries when jaw closes; 3 smaller premaxillary canines, project when mouth closes; row of 4 large equal canines on vomer. Gill opening long as combined snout and eye.

Lateral line ends in posterior half of tail.

dorsal origin little over snout length before gill opening; caudal very small; pectoral 3 1/4 in head.

Chocolate above, whitish or silvery below. Vertical fins whitish. Pectoral dark brown, edged gray. Length 355 mm. (Alcock.)

Bay of Bengal.